Approval of National Pharmaceutical Policy, 2006 by Planning Commission

†*429. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a draft (formula draft) has been prepared by Government for declaring the National Pharmaceutical Policy, 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this formula has been opposed by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research as well as Planning Commission; and

(d) if so, the basis for their opposition?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (d) Based on the recommendations of the Committee under the Chairmanship of Joint Secretary (Pharmaceuticals), the Task Force under the Chairmanship of Dr. Pronab Sen, Principal Advisor, Planning Commission and in the light of the Order dated 10.3.2003 of the Honourable Supreme Court to formulate such criteria so that essential medicines do not fall out of price control as well as feedback received from other stakeholders the Government have formulated a Draft National Pharmaceutical Policy, 2006 which alongwith a draft Cabinet Note has been circulated to various Ministries/Departments seeking their comments. Comments of many of these Ministries/ Departments including the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), as well as Planning Commission have been received.

The major concern of the CSIR and the Planning Commission has been on the likely impact of price control on the growth of industry due to increase in the span of price control which is envisaged in the draft Policy. It has been suggested that such a step could prove to be counter productive as it would discourage new investment and limit competition. These issues are being examined.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.